

Askham Bryan Annual Parish meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish meeting of Askham Bryan
held at 7pm on Thursday 16th May 2024 in the Village Hall.

PRESENT Simon Peers (Chair).

In attendance: Two other residents and the Clerk of the Parish Council (PC).

1. To approve the Clerk of the PC to take the minutes.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the PC take the minutes.

2. Notice Convening the Meeting.

It was noted that in accordance with statute, the notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Parish Council's Notice Board, on the website and on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2023.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th May 2023 having been circulated, be approved, all in favour.

4. Parish Council report.

i. Chair's report.

During 23-24 we processed 23 planning applications for developments and tree works within the parish. We have achieved a positive report at internal audit and have established a stable compliance process to maintain our required documentation and key maintenance activities.

Cllr Dawson was appointed as the vice-chair, Cllr Barber was appointed representative to the NEC and Cllrs Boakes and Smith were appointed as the PC representative to the Village Hall Committee.

The Council organised and funded an event to mark the Coronation of King Charles III hosted by the Nags Head, this was attended by a large collection of villagers.

The council have completed the purchase and installation of a new infant climbing frame and are currently working with suppliers to secure quotes for the supply and installation of and installation for older children. It is fantastic that the villagers mowing rota has been reinstated improving the quality of the area for all and reducing the cost of delivery. Village working groups have also worked hard on clearing and tidying the boundary vegetation within the recreation area. Both of these activities were lead by David Hartley and we are grateful to him for that. We have renewed the lease agreement across the Glebe to maintain the access to the recreation area from the pond.

Thanks to enthusiastic village volunteers the Natural Environment Committee has developed and is actively working on a number of projects around the village. Also a big thanks once again to Jeff Challinor and Jo

Fell who have unwaveringly kept the grass cut and the planters looking lovely.

Over the Christmas period the village was decorated through collaboration with the village hall committee and the church. It was great to see the addition of a Christmas Carol trail funded by the Parish Council and constructed by Emma Peers. It was also great to see the return of the Village Christmas Tree with a revised lighting event organised by the Parish Council in collaboration with the Nags Head, this was well attended and created a relaxed environment for the village to gather together.

ii. Statement of Parish Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Clerk of the PC had circulated a statement of Parish Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 which showed income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2023 in one column and for the year ending 31st March 2024 in another column. He went through the report and explained the reasons where the 2023 figure differed significantly from the 2024 figure. The total receipts in the year were £15,101.45 and total expenditure was £23,199.63. The end of year balance was £ £11,443.18. The balance allowed a level of contingency against unforeseen expenses. The earmarked monies reported at the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting had been used on the new piece of playground equipment. The major differences between the 2023 and 2024 end of year figures were due to this new piece of playground equipment being bought, the switch from paid for grass cutting to volunteers and costs associated with the event to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and the Christmas 2023 event (paid for out of Charity funds in previous years). VAT had been claimed mid-term to recoup this following the purchase of the new playground equipment. The 2023 annual website fee had been paid on 30th March 2022 and the 2024 annual website fee in May 2024 giving the impression that there were zero costs in the year ending 31st March 2023.

iii. Report on the Precept for 2023-24.

The Clerk of the PC reported that the precept for 2024/25 was £10,871 having been £10,506 in 2023/24. This represented an increase of just under 3.5%.

5. Police report.

The Clerk of the PC had circulated a document showing reported crimes on a month-by-month basis broken down into various categories. In total there were nine reported crimes from May 2023 to April 2024. None of the reported crimes was serious.

6. Village Hall report.

Askham Bryan Village Hall had sent the following report;

As covid recedes into our memories, we have returned to a much more normal year with the hall playing an active role in the life of our village.

Together with the Parish Council, we again supported the Christmas Tree Lighting event. The village Christmas tree provided a bright and cheerful feature during the dark December evenings.

At the end of May we held our annual fund raising event, the Spring Fayre. This again proved a popular and successful event raising over £900 thanks to the hard work of all those who helped on the day.

Last autumn we mourned the loss of Geoff Deighton. He was Chairman of the village hall committee for nearly 40 years, first taking on the role in 1982. Over that time he made a massive and irreplaceable contribution to the management and the maintenance of the hall and to securing its legacy for current and future generations. We are proposing to install a bench in his memory.

Repairs, always necessary in a building dating from 1893, have been carried out to maintain the integrity of our roof and porch.

Global energy costs and government policy are pushing us towards more efficient electric heating, either heat pumps or IR panels, but we looking for expert advice to help us make the best decision.

Administration always forms part of managing the hall. We are undertaking a re-view of our policies particularly in the light of Charity Commission and safeguarding requirements.

Access control, the unlocking and locking of the hall is becoming more of an issue so we are considering installing a suitable digitally operated lock.

We would like to encourage new members to come onto to the committee and sup-port the future of the hall and its role going forward.

7. Women's Institute report.

No report had been received and there was no formal representation at the meeting from the Women's Institute.

8. Brownies report.

Askham Bryan 1st Brownies had sent the following report.

1st Askham Bryan Brownies has seventeen registered girls (from Askham Bryan and the surrounding villages) and a leadership team consisting of 3 adult leaders and two DofE volunteers. We also benefit from the support of two additional unit helpers on larger events. Since September we have been supported by parents on a rota basis due to changes in work and family commitments of two of our leadership team.

We continue to enjoy a range of activities on a weekly basis – a mixture of activities from the Brownie programme and ones based on events in the year.

We were honoured to be asked to decorate the village hall Christmas tree last year - the Brownies really enjoyed being part of a village tradition.

This summer we will be completing a newly released RNLI challenge badge and will be getting sporty with a badge linked to the Paris Olympics. We will

end the term with our picnic in the village hall garden, a lovely space for us to use.

We have recently taken part in two large events – a Thinking Day activity day at Foxwood Community Centre with units from the local area and the annual St George's Day Parade in York.

As always, we are very grateful to the parents and villagers for their continued support.

9. Natural Environment Committee Report.

No report had been received and there was no formal representation at the meeting from the Committee. The Committee and the Recreational Area working party volunteers were thanked for the work that they did.

10. Report from Saint Nicholas' Church.

Saint Nicholas' Church had had sent the following report.

Askham Bryan church is very grateful for all the support it receives from villagers, and we would love everyone to join us for our annual Garden Party. This year it takes place from 1pm - 4pm on Saturday 29th June in the grounds of St Joseph's Monastery, the home of the Poor Clare sisters. We are very grateful for their support of continued church life in the village.

St Nicholas Church building requires some fairly major repair work to the Norman archway due to subsidence. The vestry roof also needs attention. In addition, we need to install guttering and soakaways around the vestry and porch, which would reduce the damp problems we have faced for a number of years. The building is over 800 years old, so it is only to be expected that it will require further maintenance. We are grateful to a number of villagers who are supporting us in this work. We will also be undertaking some major fundraising initiatives in the near future to enable us to get this work done.

Thank you to the village for its continued support.

11. Report on progress in setting up a new charity independent of the Parish Council.

An appeal had been made via the Newsletter for volunteers to put themselves forward to be trustees for a new charity but so far, no one had put their name forward.

12. Report of the Allotments for Stone and Gravel charity.

The Charity's constitution had been reviewed and submitted to the Charity Commission who, after a period of several months, replied rejecting the change in the constitution. A new interest earning bank account had been opened and funds switched from the previous account which didn't attract any interest. Villagers were welcome to apply to the Charity for grant funding.

13. Open discussion of Parish affairs.

No matters for discussion were raised.

The meeting closed at 7:29pm

Signed

Chairman
May 2025